

CITY OF MORRO BAY
HARBOR ADVISORY BOARD
SYNOPSIS MINUTES

The regular meeting of the City of Morro Bay Harbor Advisory Board was held Thursday, November 1, 2007 at 7:00 PM in the Veteran's Hall, 209 Surf ST, Morro Bay, California.

I. ROLL CALL

Present	Members:	Roger Anderson Gene Doughty Michele Leary Bill Luffee Lynn Meissen Jim Phillips
Absent		Ed Ewing
	Staff:	Rick Algert, Harbor Director Polly Curtis, Office Assistant

II. MINUTES

Mr. Phillips moved the October 4, 2007 Harbor Advisory Board minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Leary and carried unanimously.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Richard Sadowski, citizen of North Morro Bay, said with the implementation of the State Marine Reserve in Morro Bay there is a necessity to address the area's water supply and treatment needs and this could be done through the Biodiversity Action Plan Program. He submitted documents to Rick Algert regarding Morro Bay wastewater management.

IV. PRESENTATIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

IV-1. Presentation by Lori French on The Faces of California Fishing

Ms. Lori French presented The Faces of California Fishing as a new initiative to promote the California fishermen so people will identify fishermen in a more personal, human way. She said the kickoff party was held on October 4th. Articles and ads have appeared now in the Bay News, Coast News and New Times; posters with biographies of various local fishermen are posted in Morro Bay, Avila Beach and San Francisco. Ms. French said the website is currently being revamped, but there are several valuable links people can find at www.thefacesofcaliforniafishing.com, such as the markets where local seafood is sold, and a banner telling the public exactly which fish are in season and available.

Ms. French said she received a lot of positive feedback while manning their booth at the recent Harbor Festival. She also went to San Francisco to hand out posters and talk with many people on the wharf about the initiative. During the 13.1 mile walk, she wore a crab hat which brought attention from people so she could talk more easily.

Mr. Doughty said when he asks people at restaurants if the fish is fresh and he gets all kinds of answers; he said he hopes this program might help educate the public. Ms. French agreed, saying she also has heard many responses to that question, but seems to think consumers appear to be wanting to know the source of their food now, which is a good sign.

Mr. Luffee asked if the focus of local fishermen means Morro Bay or all of California. Ms. French said she started with Morro Bay and has talked with fishermen from Santa Barbara to Eureka with the goal of reaching the whole state and gathering as many representatives as possible. She said Bodega Bay is her next stop.

Mr. Luffee suggested using a static-cling decal that says "Local Product" to apply to fish in the restaurant and markets. Ms. French said that was a great, cost-effective idea that she will talk about further with Mr. Luffee.

Mr. Phillips said he applauded Ms. French's efforts and wished her good luck for the future. Mr. Anderson thanked Ms. French for her presentation.

IV-2. News Racks on Embarcadero

Mr. Phillips reviewed the Item for the Board, recommending that the City regulate news racks to improve public health and safety, manage risk, improve public access, minimize view/traffic obstructions, and to improve aesthetics and the business environment on the waterfront.

Mr. Phillips presented a photograph of a possible modular unit and cost per unit of \$1062.12. He recommended renting the spaces to the newspapers who want to keep their boxes in certain locations on City property. He said the goal is to move the majority of news racks away from the water side of the Embarcadero. He estimated the project to be approximately \$15,000, and Mr. Algert concurred, saying the funds of between \$10-20,000 could be proposed as a project in the FY08-09 budget.

The Board discussed the Item. Mr. Doughty said he would like to eliminate the Morro Rock restroom as one of the locations for the news racks, saying the trash from ads that get thrown out would greatly clutter that area. After some further discussion, the Board agreed not to use Morro Rock as a location for news racks, since there are no news racks currently in that area.

Chairman Anderson said he believes the City Attorney will be able to consider the best means of implementing concise language for a draft ordinance.

Mr. Phillips made the following Motion:

Motion: The Harbor Advisory Board is requesting City Council to ask the City Attorney to draft a news rack ordinance including the following elements:

- Include the ordinance in Morro Bay Municipal Code Chapter 8 Public Health and Safety.
- Applicable to the Embarcadero area from Tidelands Park to Virg's/Harbor Hut area.
- City will provide and maintain some level of safe and attractive boxes in these locations (if adopted the Harbor Fund will recommend a budget item for this is in FY08-09) and the papers will have to obtain a permit and pay a small fee for use of the City boxes. Private parties could add other news racks in these locations provided they meet the City basic guidelines for boxes and maintenance.
- Meet First Amendment requirements.
- Designate the following sites on the waterfront and prohibit news racks in all other locations:
 - Virg's/Harbor Hut area
 - South T-Pier Embarcadero sidewalk near dumpster enclosure on the west side and the shuttle stop on the east side
 - Giovanni's parking lot moved toward street/sidewalk
 - Pacific Street end east side Embarcadero

- Marina Street end east side Embarcadero
- Tidelands Park restroom

The Motion was seconded by Mr. Luffee and carried unanimously.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

V-1. Harbor Department Status Report

Mr. Algert Reviewed the following items:

Shark Sightings

MLPA Regulations

Central Coast Joint Cable/Fisheries Liaison Committee Grants

Lighted Boat Parade

Hunting Season

Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) & Schedule of Meetings

City Council Action: Ships to Reefs Passed

VI. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

None.

VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

December: Boat Repair Yard

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM

Submitted by,

Polly Curtis
Harbor Department